

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 IO-13

CU-04 NIC-01 RSR-01 /106 W

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R 160837Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0024

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2910

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR HU

SUBJECT: CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

1. DURING PAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN A COORDINATED EFFORT ON PART OF HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE GOH ATTACHES TO RETURN OF CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN. AMONG OFFICIALS WHO HAVE RAISED SUBJECT ARE DEPUTY PREMIER VALYI (WITH SECRETARY ROGERS), DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY (WITH USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH AND AMBASSADOR PUHAN), AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR SARKOZI (WITH DIA DIRECTOR ADMIRAL DUPOIS). IN ADDITION, IN A RADIO INTERVIEW RECENTLY FERENC VARNAI, FOREIGN POLICY EDITOR OF HSWP DAILY NEPSZABADSAG, PUBLICLY ADVISED EMBASSY TO PASS ALONG VIEW THAT US MUST RETURN CROWN IF IT IS TO COMPLY WITH "PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE."

2. ISSUE OF CROWN IS EXPECTED TO BE AN INCREASINGLY SORE POINT IN US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY AS THERE IS GREATER BILATERAL COOPERATION IN OTHER FIELDS. MANY GOH OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT SIGNING OF CLAIMS AND CONSULAR AGREEMENTS DEMONSTRATED THAT "SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS" HAS BEEN MADE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THEREFORE, US SHOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON RETURN OF CROWN TO HUNGARY. FURTHER CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ATTITUDE IS LIKELIHOOD THAT TWO RECENT DEVELOPMDNTS INVOLVING USG

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HAVE NOT ESCAPED NOTICE OF HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

FIRST IS ANNOUNCEMENT LAST MAY THAT SECRETARY ROGERS WOULD RETURN TO MEXICAN GOVERNMENT A NUMBER OF SMUGGLED ART OBJECTS RECENTLY SEIZED BY US LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS WHILE SEARCHING HOUSE OF AN ALLEGED NARCOTICS SMUGGLER. SECOND WAS SENATE'S RATIFICATION OF UNESCO CONVENTION ON CULTURAL PROPERTY AND NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S READINESS TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION FOR SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS THAT WILL HELP PROTECT CULTURAL PATRIMONY FROM PILFERAGE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOLOGICAL MATERIALS AS WELL AS FACILITATE RECOVERY AND RETURN OF CULTURAL PROPERTY STOLEN FROM MUSEUMS, RELIGIOUS OR SECULAR MONUMENTS OR SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.

3. IN HIS CONVERSATION LAST MONTH WITH USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY COMMENTED THAT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND JOURNALISTS HAD BEEN ASKED BY GOH NOT TO RAISE SUBJECT OF RETURN OF CROWN PUBLICLY. SOME OF THEM, HOWEVER, ARE GETTING IMPATIENT, HE AID. HE ADDED THAT GOH MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL THEM ANY LONGER. IT MAY VERY WELL BE THAT VARNAI INTERVIEW IS SIGNAL THAT GOH HAS DECIDED MENTIONING RETURN OF CROWN IS NO LONGER TABOO. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED, THEREFORE, IF ON AUGUST 20 SOME HIGH-RANKING GOH OFFICIAL PUBLICLY APPEALS FOR RETURN OF CROWN SOONEST. PUBLIC CELEBRATION AND MASS MEETING AT ESZTERGOM ON THAT DATE MIGHT PROVIDE SUITABLE OCCASION. IN ADDITION TO BEING CONSTITUTION DAY AUGUST 20 IS ALSO FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN. EVEN IF NO MENTION IS MADE OF RETURN OF CROWN ON AUGUST 20 WE BELIEVE THAT FROM NOW ON EVERY INFLUENTIAL AMERICAN WHO VISITS HERE WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO REPLY TO QUERIES ABOUT WHEN CROWN WILL BE RESTORED TO HUNGARY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CULTURAL PROPERTY, GEMS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ST STEPHEN CROWN OF  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BUDAPE02910  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS MUDD  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BUDAPEST  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730835/aaaaazgo.tel  
**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, HU, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005